



B-RAP news

Business **RECYCLING** Assistance Program

Waste Management Information for South Carolina Businesses

August 1, 2003

South Carolina accepts Resource Conservation Challenge

COLUMBIA, SC – Building on the National Resource Conservation Challenge created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), South Carolina has embarked on a comprehensive effort to promote waste minimization, pollution prevention, recycling, energy conservation and environmentally preferable purchasing among state agencies, public-supported colleges and universities, schools and school districts, and other government-supported organizations.

In accordance with the S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act, state agencies and other public-supported institutions are required to submit annual reports to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office) detailing efforts to reduce waste, recycle and buy recycled content products. The Office has tracked this information for two years.

The Business Recycling Assistance Program (B-RAP) took the lead in developing the S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge (Challenge). BRAP includes the Office, the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program, DHEC's Center for Waste Minimization and the S.C. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council. B-RAP then asked the S.C. Energy Office and the S.C. Department of Corrections (S.C. DC) to be involved in this effort that resulted in a comprehensive one-day workshop on May 14, 2003.

The goal of the Challenge is to educate state agencies and other government-supported groups on ways to save money, reduce environmental impacts and conserve valuable resources. The workshop featured presentations designed to help agencies develop and implement comprehensive programs to meet the Challenge's goals. A task force was created, consisting of representatives of various agencies, to serve as a guidance committee.

Workshop Results

Nearly 120 people, representing 33 state agencies, 14 public colleges and universities, eight public school districts and three military installations participated in the May 14 workshop held at the S.C. State Museum. There was no charge for the workshop and the U.S. EPA's WasteWise Program and the S.C. Soft Drink Association provided funding for the meeting space and lunch.

The day began with a presentation by Chad Walldorf, assistant chief of staff for Governor Mark Sanford. He reiterated the Governor's support for resource conservation and making state government more efficient in its operations. He also applauded efforts by DHEC, the S.C. Energy Office and S.C. DC for their on-going efforts to reduce waste and recycle as well as promote those concepts to others in state government. Walldorf also reported his company's commitment to recycling, providing numbers on what his business had recycled in the past two years. He challenged the participants to embrace the information shared as part of the workshop and use it to benefit their efforts to reduce waste and foster recycling.

Richard Chesley with the Office presented information about the U.S. EPA's WasteWise Program and discussed the benefits to joining the WasteWise effort. DHEC serves as a state endorser for the WasteWise Program and has received national recognition for two years in a row for its efforts to promote the initiative to recruit new members.

Karen Owens, project manager for the S.C. Department of Commerce's Business Services Division, provided an overview of B-RAP and its available resources to assist state agencies and others reduce, reuse and recycle more material. The program provides a variety of technical assistance and recycling market information to business,

industry, government agencies, school districts and other organizations committed to reduce the amount of waste they pay to dispose.

The S.C. Energy Office discussed programs designed to help state agencies and schools conserve energy and buy energy-efficient equipment including replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units. Frank Boyd reviewed the State Agency Consumption Report while Karen Hudson reported on the availability of loan funds for converting to energy-efficient equipment. Finally Elisabeth Ondeara shared information on energy outreach programs including the energy public service announcement that features E2, the energy cartoon mascot that is part of the award-winning Recycle Guys awareness campaign.

Les Swygert with S.C. DC provided a testimonial on how one of the state's largest agencies has dramatically reduced waste and embraced recycling. In addition to its outstanding achievements, S.C. DC also provides recycling collection services to state agencies.

John Stevens with the State Budget and Control Board provided an update on the numerous recycled-content products that are currently available on state contract; Chuck Lee discussed the State Museum's efforts to recycle more materials. Patricia Jerman with the Sustainable Universities Initiative discussed programs developed by several of the public colleges throughout the state.

Attendees also had an opportunity to hear from Dale Thompson, director of Environmental Services at Lexington Medical Center. The West Columbia-based hospital was recognized as B-RAP's Best Industry Recycling Program for 2002 as a result of its efforts to

save nearly \$9,000 in waste disposal fees and generate almost \$5,000 from the sale of its recyclables. Thompson detailed how the hospital's administration instilled a concern for the environment as part of its corporate culture and how employees had participated in the waste reduction and recycling program for more than 10 years.

One of the workshop goals was to educate state agencies and other publicly funded institutions about the importance of recording their waste reduction, recycling and buying recycled activities. They are required by law to report to DHEC on these efforts and DHEC then compiles an annual progress report for the Governor and General Assembly. Pam Bergstrand discussed some basic information about the recording and reporting process and fielded questions from participants.

Steering Committee Formed

Next, volunteers were solicited to participate on a statewide steering committee to discuss opportunities for promoting recycling opportunities among other state and local government organizations as well as addressing barriers that may discourage recycling and reduction activities. Eighteen people volunteered to serve and held their first meeting on July 31 in Columbia. Attendees agreed to study procurement issues, energy efficiency programs and potential policy changes to facilitate greater recycling and waste reduction activities as well as develop a Web site to serve as a repository of resources for state agencies and others.

For more information about the S.C. Resource Conservation Challenge, contact the Office at **1-800-768-7348**.



Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

1-800-768-7348

www.scdhec.gov/recycle



We perform. You win.

ABOUT THIS ARTICLE: "B-RAP News" is published by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Center for Waste Minimization and Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the S.C. Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council and the University of South Carolina's Industrial Ecology Program.

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